

Monongalia



Mirror

A Family Newspaper—Independent of Party or Sect.

S. SIEGFRIED, Editor and Proprietor.
S. SIEGFRIED, Jun., Assistant Editor.

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Original Articles.

For the Mirror.

GREENDALE, April 19, 1852.

Mr. Editor—In these days of office-seeking one can scarcely get his thinking apparatus in tune until along comes a political blast, and scatters the half-formed ideas to the "four winds." In this section of the old Dominion there is very little said or done in reference to politics, but I am inclined to think, from what I have heard and read, that there is a mighty stir in other parts.

I must say that I cannot (nor could it be expected that I should) understand the doings of office-seekers at the present day. In reference to this matter, however, it does not become me to speak, for I have not yet learned the first letter in the political alphabet; yet, for the sake of information I wish to ask one question: why should Whiggism and Democracy be considered in the election of State or County officers, when politics can have nothing whatever to do in the transaction of business?

If some one of those enthusiastic politicians will answer this satisfactorily, it may be of service to me if ever I should be permitted to be a voter. My mind is now tender, and the first impression may fix my political destiny. Now is the time to bend the twig, for "just as the twig is bent the tree inclines." And it is important that it should be bent the right way. Politics, meaning nothing more nor less than the "science of government," should be properly taught to the rising generation. I intend to try if possible to make some proficiency in this important science. I never expect to advance so far as to become a politician, though it is hard to tell what the "fates" have decreed; but one thing I do know, Mr. Editor, when the approaching election is over, you and I will feel a great deal better than some of the candidates will. But as I did not intend in the outset to give you a chapter on politics, I will change the direction of the line.

Your readers need not be told that April, generally, in this latitude, is the most beautiful of the rolling year. April, indeed, is apt to be a little changeable (especially thus far has it been so this year) but its changes are sudden rather than severe. Shakespeare compares the variability of April weather to the ups and downs of lovers—
"O, how the Spring of love resembles
The uncertain glory of an April day,
Which now shows all the beauty of the sun,
And by-and-by a cloud takes all away."

History tells us that the Romans dedicated the first day of April to folly, and from this Pagan custom we have derived our *Christian April-fool day*. The Catholics, for the sake of popularity, adopted the April-fool custom, and spread it all over Europe. They went so far, even, as to defend it from the Bible. They said that the day on which Jesus was sent from Pilate to Herod, and then back again from Herod to Pilate, without any business whatever, but as on a fool's errand, was the first day of April. The day was therefore to be celebrated, they said, as a memorial of the illustrious insult. What they knowingly borrowed from the Pagans, they thus established by the authority of Scripture. Perhaps many of you have seen evidences of the utter folly of this *Christian* custom. So without "note or comment" I will leave you.

A COUNTRY LAD.

SOMETHING NEW.

An English paper says—"Hate are now beginning to be made of work." A fact very interesting, no doubt, to right-headed people.

For the Mirror.

Mr. Editor—In looking over your interesting sheet, I beheld the production of a *Peepers* cranium, who, at the time of penning the same, thought he was revealing a secret, or shortly would. The gentleman says he peeped. Gentleman, did I say? Excuse me, Mr. Editor; no man of character and respectability will be peeping about after night, much less at noon-day. And he says they didn't do business at the Democratic meeting like they did where he was raised. What would you think, Mr. Editor, of that man if he should come peeping about your house? I imagine you would not only think but say he was not raised at all, but sprang up in the woods at night like a mushroom. But this peeper seems to think some of the candidates have criminated themselves by only imploring one party for support; and also by attacking "common sense farmer" to their Circular. If this peeper was Judge of the court no doubt these candidates would be in a critical position. Why didn't they subscribe to their Circulars, *Know-all, Jack-of-all, or Booby?* for either would have done. If they had, then I would invert the peeper's classic figure and say, "booby metamorphosed into a peeper." But, Mr. Editor, these candidates can take a rake at Mr. P. if they deem him worthy of notice; but as I am better acquainted probably with the peeper than those candidates are, permit me to write another line or two. Mr. P. thinks leaves and fishes will be scarce with some of the candidates; that may be for aught I know;—but he will have plenty, no doubt; but how he gets them I don't say. One thing I do say, if P. don't use a little better he will have to look sharp. No more at present, but good bye to the Peeper.

Pierpoint, Va. FAR AWAY.

For the Mirror.

Mr. Editor—I have a respectable female acquaintance, who thinks she has arrived at the proper age to stand at the Hymeneal altar. She is intelligent, moral, polite, graceful, industrious and rich, and would make any young gent a good wife. She requested me to say that no one need apply who drinks spirits, or uses tobacco in any way; or who is not intelligent, industrious and well versed in the rules of etiquette. Gents, now is the time to get a wife and a fortune. Whoop! strike follow instantan. PUNCH.

N. B. Any person wishing further particulars can have the same by addressing.

Whoop-pole-ridge, Va.

Morgantown Female Academy.

We had the pleasure, a few evenings since, of being at a little musical exhibition given by the pupils of the above named institution. The young ladies gave pleasing evidence both of the qualifications of their instructors and their own aptness for learning.

We are happy to learn that the trustees of this promising Seminary have resolved upon the erection of a new and more commodious edifice. The present building, though a tolerably good one, is insufficient for the perfect accommodation of the school, and especially for that growth and progress, which may be reasonably anticipated. The Academy is under the care of Rev. Cephas Gregg and lady, who are members of the M.E. church, and who according to universal testimony, are most admirably qualified for their profession. The school at present is chiefly sustained by the village and neighborhood; but as its advantages come to be known abroad it cannot fail to attract a more extensive patronage. The healthfulness, morality, intelligence, and general agreeableness of the village, together with the modest merit of the instructors, and the reasonableness of the tuition fees, must in time draw the attention of those who are looking around for a safe and suitable place to which to send their daughters for a liberal education.—*Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.*

THE METHODIST MOVEMENT.—The N.

York Christian Advocate and Journal publishes the proceedings of a Convention of Methodist laymen, opposed to the recent movement for lay representation. It was held in Philadelphia on the 15th ult., in St. George's church. The body numbered 290 Members. None but those opposed to lay representation were invited. An address to the church at large was adopted, in which the subject of the late Convention is discussed, and the brethren of the church are invited to send delegates to the Convention to be held in St. George's church in the city of Philadelphia, to take such action as shall attest their devotion to the church, as it is.

From the Baltimore True Union.

A Reminiscence.

At a night meeting close of one of the Virginia Anniversaries in Richmond, some 30 odd years ago, it had been arranged that several brethren should address the meeting. The venerable father, Reuben Ford, the oldest minister present, father Courtney, pastor of the church, R. B. Somple, and Andrew Broadbush, were in the pulpit. Father Ford, who, in his later years, would sometimes add to his many gifts, what the excellent Somple used to call the *gift of continuance*, made the first address. A densely crowded audience and a glowing spiritual atmosphere seemed to fire the breast of the aged speaker, till he seemed to have lost all recollection that others were to follow him. What was to be done? Broadbush, looking over the old pulpit and seeing near him the tall, black headed form of the warm-hearted Montague, "called to him in a strong whisper, Sing! Sing! and in an instant his strong, full voice was followed by the whole congregation in one of their happiest songs, in which the old brother was completely drowned, but under the impression that his address had produced the burst of joy and praise, he sat down in tears of joy himself, perhaps the happiest individual in the assembly. W. C.

*Recently deceased.

"Giving Each a Portion."

At the close of the last century, in the village of H—, where there were many rich men, and not a few extremely poor, Mr. A— was the only settled minister of the Gospel, charged with the care and instruction of all the people. But he proved to be a partial and unfaithful shepherd, flattering the rich and neglecting the poor. And as the anecdote runs, according to the best of my recollection, Mr. C—, a somewhat eccentric, though faithful brother, admonished him in the following manner. He went to him, and with great simplicity and apparent curiosity asked—"Brother A—, how many front doors in your parish are opened by a leather string?" "Not one; I believe not one," was the ready answer. "And how many front doors in your parish, continued the inquiring brother, 'are furnished with brass knockers?' The prompt answer was: "I should think a dozen or more." "True," replied he admonishing brother, "true, in the second case you are correct, but in the first you greatly err. I have taken pains for your benefit, to ascertain the facts in both cases; and I find that there are on the front doors of your parish thirteen brass knockers, and fourteen leather strings.—Good morning, brother!"

MORAL.—A minister of the Gospel should, and a good minister of Jesus Christ will know, and often open all the front doors with leather strings in his parish, as well as those which are furnished with brass-knockers.—While he neglects not to visit the rich, and admonish them to be rich in faith and in good works, he should not fail to visit the poor, and preach to them the Gospel of Christ.—*Puritan Recorder.*

System in Charity.

A worthy man states that if his receipts amount to \$300 a year, he gives six per cent. of it in charity.—If he receives more, he increases the rate per cent. of all he receives, and both find a blessing in the system they adopt.

Another, who recognized the duty of "every one to give steadily as God prospers him," thought the farmer could not know the value of his income nor the merchant of his outstanding debts, so as to designate a proportion of his receipts for charity; but found that if the heart is set upon it, there is no difficulty; and since he began to give systematically, it seems to him the receipts are about one third larger than before.

HOW IT WORKS AMONG THE POOR.—A plain man, who has "a widowed mother and her children looking to him for assistance," resolved to devote one twentieth of his earnings to benevolence. He prospered, and the next year he gave one-tenth. Providence still smiled, and in 1851, after much prayer and consideration, he resolved to give one seventh; and now, he says, "I can set to my soul that God is true, and 'it is blessed to give'."

A more wealthy gentleman encloses two hundred dollars as a portion of profits on a recent business transaction.—*American Messenger.*

POTTERY RENOUNCED.—The London Morning Post states that the Rev. Geo. Evison, late a priest of the church of Rome, has renounced the errors of popery, in the church of St. Paul, Bermondsey. This gentleman was late chaplain of the Roman Catholic congregation at Portsea.

POETRY.

From the Illustrated Family Friend.

THE LAST ADIEU.

BY FINLY JOHNSON.

I FEEL my soul is fading, mother,
Into its dreamless rest;
I know that soon I shall repose
Upon my Saviour's breast.
For even now, my sight does view
The splendor of the skies,
And angels bright are floating by,
Before my fading eyes.
Then come to me my sister,
Before I fall asleep—
And hear the blissful memories
Which now around me creep;
And may they bring thy spirit back
Wherever it may roam—
To gaze with feelings of delight
Upon thy childhood's home.

Our blessed childhood, sister dear,
Was a sweet dream to me—
When oft in sportive mood we played
Beneath the old oak tree.
But now, no more, it can afford
To my poor heart, its joy;
For I depart where pleasures are
Unmingled with alloy.

And father—dearest father,
Thou, thou art gone before—
To greet me in the bosom of love
On God's ambrosial shore.
For I believe with steadfast faith
That thy last fervent prayer
Will still be heard in Paradise,
"That I may meet thee there."

Then mother, sister fare-you-well!
I go to realms above—
Where I shall dwell in purity,
And share my Saviour's love.
Behold! behold! the angels bright
Are beckoning me on high;
My eyes grow dim, I may not see,
So weeping friends, good bye!
Baltimore, 1852.

A POWERFUL DELINQUENT.—The following is an extract from the address of Judge Johnson, of Georgia, in sentencing G. D. Cornet to death, for the murder without provocation of W. W. Hales, delivered on the 16th of September, 1851:

"Nor shall the place be forgotten in which occurred this shedding of blood. It was in one of the thousand ante-chambers of hell, which mark plague spots the fair face of our State. You need not be told that I mean a tippling shop.—The meeting place of satans minions, and the foul cess-pool which by spontaneous generation breeds and nurtures all that is loathsome and disgusting, in profanity, and babbling, and vulgarity, and Sabbath breaking. I would not be the owner of a grocery for the price of this globe converted into precious ore. For the pitiful sum of a dime, he furnished the poison which made the deceased a fool, and converted this trembling culprit into a demon. How paltry this price of two human lives! This traffic is tolerated by law, and, therefore, the vendor has committed an offence not cognizable by earthly tribunals: but in sight of Him who is unerring wisdom, he who deliberately furnishes the intoxicating draught which inflames to anger and violence and bloodshed, is *particeps criminis* in the moral turpitude of the deed. Is it not high time that these sinks of vice and crime should be held rigidly accountable to the laws of the land, and placed under the ban of an enlightened and virtuous public opinion?"

INTERESTING FACT.—The Rev. J. D. Tyler, Principal of the Deaf Mute department of the Virginia Institution, states in his last interesting report, that our own country is the only one in which the question whether the children of deaf mutes are themselves apt to be deaf, has approached a solution. Two hundred deaf mutes assembled in Hartford, Conn., September 25th, 1850. Of these, 103 were married, some quite recently. Seventy-two were parents, the parents of 102 children, ninety-eight of whom can hear and speak. Instances are given of parents, both deaf from birth, having children able to hear and speak. "An instance," says Mr. Tyler, "exists in our institution, in the case of an instructor and his amiable wife, both deaf from birth—but their two bright little boys have all their senses in perfection. So that the apprehension in question," continues the Principal, "is not sufficient ground for denying the deaf mutes the chief of earthly happiness, the school and exercise of virtue—the state which preserves nations, and fills cities and churches and heaven itself."

DESTITUTION.—A good lady in Concord said it could not be that any family in Concord was destitute of the Bible; and behold, the family that lived in the other part of the same house, had no Bible.

Virginia Legislature.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Friday, April 9, 1852.

Prayer by the Rev. Moses D. Hoge. The resolution from the Senate in relation to the election of officers under the new Constitution, to which the House had proposed an amendment, and to which the Senate disagreed, was taken up, and, on motion of Mr. Lenke, laid upon the table.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

The bill districting the State for Commissioners of the Board of Public Works, providing for their election, &c., was read the third time.—A motion made by Mr. Jackson to reconsider the vote ordering the bill to be engrossed, was rejected—ayes 57, noes 64.

The 2d section of the bill contains this clause: "Elections shall be held by the qualified voters of their respective counties cities and towns, composing each of said districts, on the — Thursday in — next, for the election in each district of a Commissioner of the Board of Public Works."

Mr. Price moved to fill the blanks with the words, "4th Thursday in August;" Mr. Taliaferro, with the "4th Thursday in May," and Mr. Jackson of Pleasanton and Ritchie with "Tuesday, before the 1st day in November."

The question was taken upon the last proposition, which was adopted—ayes 70, noes 51.

The same bill contained this clause: "The said Commissioners shall each receive a compensation of — dollars per annum for their services, and shall be paid all necessary travelling expenses incurred in attending to the business of their office, which shall be paid quarterly, as in the case of other public officers."

Mr. Martz moved to fill the blank with \$1,500, Mr. Taliaferro with \$1,000, Mr. Imboden with \$2,500 and Mr. Echols with \$1,250.

The votes upon the several propositions were as follow: Upon that of \$2,500—ayes 6, noes 115. Upon that of \$2,000; ayes 22, noes 97.

Mr. McDonald stated that he would not have said a word, had it not been for the remarks he had just heard from the distinguished gentleman from Greenbrier, (Mr. Price). He differed from him in believing that no man could be found who was competent to perform the duties of a member of the Board of Public Works for less than \$1800 or \$2,000 per year. He was satisfied that the best talent of the State could be commanded for a less sum than \$1800. Fix the salary at such a figure that there will not be a scramble for it, for the sake of the spoils of office. There are now, perhaps, a greater number of candidates for this Board than was ever before dreamed of; and tell me not that it is mere patriotism, that causes this rush on the treasury. All over the commonwealth the press is groaning with the 'announcements' of venerable politicians, who have been dead and buried for twenty years; by some means these dead have scented an office in the distance, supposed to have desirable perquisites attached, and also patronage to dispense to their living relatives; and hence the anxiety of these persons to rise from the dead. It is evident that the host of persons named for the Board of Public Works, is caused by an expected large salary; and for one, he would disappoint them, and the list would be diminished, and none but men who desired to distinguish themselves in the service of the State, would remain candidates.

Mr. McDonald further stated, that living, as he did, on the border of Pennsylvania, he had learned something of the system there. The time once was in that State when the casual commissioners did not receive a dollar of compensation, except expenses; and having the honor of being the second officer of the government was sufficient to make it sought. Under the new system in Pennsylvania, they receive \$4 per day and expenses, and that pay commands the best talent of that state; and within a few weeks a Presidential nomination was reconciled by a canal commissioner given to a minority. He trusted that with those facts of the system elsewhere, this House would not vote \$1,800 per year, to we know not whom, nor for what services; with a discretion as to travelling expenses, that would keep the commissioners travelling over the commonwealth incessantly.

Mr. Martz moved to fill the blank with the words \$1,600, and Mr. Speed with \$1,800. Each of these motions was decided in the negative.

Mr. Preston then proposed the sum of \$500, Mr. West that of \$1,400, and Mr. Keyser the sum of \$100. Each of these motions was defeated. The question then recurred upon filling the blank with the sum of \$1,000

and was decided in the affirmative—ayes 75, noes 40.

The question then came up on the passage of the bill, which Mr. Taliaferro moved a ryder, which was read the first time, when the question being put upon reading it a second time, On motion of Mr. Buckner, the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Saturday, April 10, 1852.

WHEELING BRIDGE CASE.

Mr. Scott of Fauquier, from the Committee of Courts of Justice, to whom had been referred the opinion of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the State of Pennsylvania against the Wheeling and Belmont Bridge Company and others, made a report.—The Committee deem the bridge a structure of great importance to the people of Virginia; a work erected without any apprehension that the Supreme Court would deem it illegal; and, therefore, recommend that the House adopt the following resolutions:

1. Resolved by the General Assembly, That the Senators in Congress from this State be instructed, and the Representatives requested to propose and support such proper measures within the Constitutional power of Congress as may serve to maintain the bridge over the Ohio river at the city of Wheeling, as the same has been constructed.

2. The Attorney General of this Commonwealth is instructed to move the said Court that its decree in relation to said bridge be suspended until there may be legislation on the subject.

3. The General Assembly cannot forbear to mark the prosecution of the said controversy in the name, and by the authority of the State of Pennsylvania, as the exhibition of an unjust and unfriendly spirit towards our citizens.

Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Townes, a bill providing for the election and qualification of Attorneys for the Commonwealth, Sergeants, Commissioners of the Revenue, Constables, Clerks of the Hustings Courts, in corporate towns having no Circuit Courts located therein, was taken up, and being amended on his motion, was ordered to be engrossed.

BILLS PASSED.

A bill districting the State for Commissioners of the Board of Public Works, providing for their election and the time and place of their first meeting, with the ryder, was passed—ayes 90, noes 20.

A bill providing for the election and qualification of Attorneys for the Commonwealth, Sergeants, Commissioners of the Revenue, Constables, Clerks of the Hustings Courts, in corporate towns having no Circuit Courts located in said corporations, was passed.

It will be seen that the bill concerning Commissioners of the Revenue, which has consumed so much of the time of the House and the Senate, was yesterday rejected by the Senate, wanting one of the constitutional majority. The bill, as it came from the House, had been materially altered by the Senate. The vote may be reconsidered, and the bill passed by the Senate—but, at present, the whole question is at sea.—*Richmond Enquirer of April 13.*

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Monday, April 5, 1852.

A RECESS.

Mr. Shackelford, from the Senate, introduced to the House the following resolution, which had been passed by that body:

Resolved, That a Joint Committee of thirteen, seven upon the part of the House, and six upon the part of the Senate, be appointed to enquire into the expediency of an adjourned session, and, if expedient, to report the reason thereof to their respective bodies.

Mr. McDonald said that he regretted the Senate had adopted the Joint Resolution—that it would, in the end, do much to delay business. If members would once come to the conclusion that there would be an extra session, nothing would be done from that time till the end of the session. He did not see any necessity for an extra session, if gentlemen would only do their duty; and it was not the proper time to bring the question up, when the new government was not organized. It is a matter obligatory upon us to pass a revenue bill to keep the government in motion, and provide a sinking fund to pay off the public debt, created by extravagant Legislators. We are also bound to fix the places for the district courts, district the State into Congressional Districts, and also into other districts for the election of members of the Board of Public Works. These duties alone,

he imagined, would consume a couple of months; without touching other equally important matters; and yet, in this stage of the proceedings, when absolutely nothing has been done, the Senator introduces these ill-timed resolutions for an extra session, which, if adopted, would in all probability, result in a session next winter of four or five months. He disclaimed making capital by opposing the resolutions; he batted here to do his duty, and he would do so if it should result in prolonging the session till June.—Gentlemen appeared to fear the warm weather, but he could assure them that if there should be an extra session, a voice of popular indignation would come up to this Hall that would alarm them more than an August sun. Let us go to work—transact the important business for which we were sent here, and then go home to our people and meet their approval, not their indignation. We can adjourn at a reasonable time, if there are less words and more action in the House, and knowing that fact, he would no longer trespass upon the patience of members.

Mr. Patrick, of Kanawha, demanded the eyes and noses on agreeing to the joint resolution; when the question was decided in the negative—ayes 24, noes 84.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

Messrs. Editors.—I see in your daily paper of the 7th inst., under the head of "Recess," the following notice: (See above.)

Here I take issue with the gentleman from Montongalia. I say just fix a certain day for the adjournment of the Legislature, and you alarm every member who has a bill in his charge for its passage. All will work, late and early, in the close of the session to get their business done.

For the truth of this remark, I appeal to all experienced legislators, and also appeal to the journals of past sessions.

But, be it remembered, that the proposed committee was only one of enquiry or investigation. Is the gentleman afraid of the truths which may be elicited by investigation?

Perhaps he is afraid that his liberty of making speeches, which enlighten no one, will be bridged.—Is the gentleman's vision so exceedingly keen as now to enable him to say that he would be able to assess the taxes with propriety, for the next two years without the returns of the Commissioners? If not when does he expect to get these returns?—Is it before August, September or October? If not, is he willing he should be employed to that period, in putting the new government into operation. I think we ought to do it in much less time.—And I believe no one expects any improvement bills to pass until we get the Commissioners' returns. But Mr. Editor, thy object in writing this note was more particularly to do justice to my friend, the Senator from Culpeper.

He called up his resolution offered some days since at my request, and to enable me to offer as a substitute the resolution which passed the Senate and was carried to the House by Mr. Shackelford.—If the resolution was wrong or improper: I, and not the Senator from Culpeper, shall be responsible for the act, and I claim for myself as much credit for little talk and much work as I am willing to award to the gentleman from Monongalia.

JOHN HALL.

House of Delegates.

Richmond, April 10, 1852.

To the Editors of the Enquirer:

Gentlemen: I observed in your paper of this morning, a communication from Mr. Hall, the Senator from Mason; that I desire to notice. In my remarks in opposition to an extra session, I did no injustice to my friend, the Senator from Culpeper; Mr. Shackelford. The injustice was caused by a typographical error, in changing the word Senate to Senator.

But Mr. Hall does me injustice, in intimating that I have been speaking too much. The Senator does not speak from the record in this state's affairs. I have not addressed the House a half dozen times this session, and then only a few minutes, notwithstanding some of my constituents have been complaining of my silence. It is my ambition to be a working, not a talking member; and if at any time, in the brief remarks I may feel it my duty to make in the House, I should unintentionally do injustice to any one I will ever be ready to make amends.

AND. McDONALD.

TEMPERANCE.—Within a few weeks, an association for the promotion of temperance has been formed at Indianapolis, numbering over twenty-five thousand persons, of whom at least four hundred are reformed inebriates, that is men who have been in the habit of drinking more or less.